



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Date: September 23, 2024  
Subject: **Elementary Class Size Compliance and Staffing Update 2024-2025**  
Origin: Jaime Sheepwash, Chief Human Resources Officer

### Purpose

This report is intended to provide the Board of Trustees with information regarding the obligations to maintain compliance with class sizes in our elementary schools as dictated by the *Education Act* for the 2024-2025 school year at the Durham Catholic District School Board.

### Background

All school Boards in the Province of Ontario must demonstrate compliance with the *Education Act* as well as direction from the Ministry of Education regarding class sizes within our elementary schools.

### Information/Analysis/Research

#### **Elementary Panel (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8)**

In accordance with the *Education Act*, Regulations and Ministry Program Policy Memorandum, each Board of Education must demonstrate annual compliance on a date no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> with the below class size parameters:

### Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)

- Board-wide average class size of 26 with a class size limit of 29;
- FDK classes with 16 students or more shall be staffed with a Designated Early Childhood Educator and a classroom teacher;
- FDK classes with less than 16 students are staffed with a classroom teacher only;

### Primary Class Size (Grades 1-3)

- At least 90% of all primary classes must have their class sizes at a student enrolment of 20 or less.
- The Board may exceed the class size cap of 20 students in up to 10% of all primary classes in the system.
- The class size maximum for primary classes is limited to 23 students.

### Junior/Intermediate Average Class Size (Grades 3/4-8)

- Average class size for junior and intermediate grades must not exceed 24.5 students.
- No grade 3/4 class size may be greater than 23 students.

## Elementary Class Size Compliance

The Durham Catholic District School Board has submitted its class size report to the Ministry of Education reflective of the Board's student enrolment and organization as of September 5, 2024 and has met compliance in all areas as follows:

- The system wide class size average for FDK is 23.26 students with 103 classes of our 125 FDK classrooms staffed with a DECE.
- 90.3% of primary classes in the Board have a student enrolment of 20 or less and no primary classes exceed the cap of 23.
- Average class size for Junior/Intermediate classes is 24.44 with 100% of all grade 3/4 classes at enrolments of 23 or less.

## Elementary Staffing Complement

As of September 5, 2024, the total number of elementary classrooms within our system grew to 716 from 693 in the 2023-2024 school year.

GW/JS/EM/MP